

George Hellick Coffee Company  
215 Ferry Street  
Easton  
Northampton County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5545

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PA,  
413- EATA.  
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PHOTOGRAPHS AND

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Mid-Atlantic Region, National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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48-EASTON  
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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

George Hellick Coffee Company

HABS No. PA-5545

**Location:** 215 Ferry Street, Easton, Northampton County, PA

USGS Easton Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates: 18.482080.4504440

**Significance:** This late Victorian commercial building became the home of the George Hellick Coffee Company in 1913, an important delivery business of Easton.

**Description:** The George Hellick Company offices were located in a three-story brick fronted building that replaced an earlier row house. The main features of the facade are a bracketed pressed metal cornice that crowns the front and a two-story, pressed metal, polygonal bay that occupies the west half of the facade, while single windows with pressed metal segmental window heads light the eastern portion of the interior. The first floor has been altered to a commercial front with a bulk window and shop door on the west below a small paned transom. On the side and at the elevator tower on the rear of the building can still be seen the painted billboards advertising the George Hellick Coffee Company. In a later alteration, presumably at the time of the acquisition of 217 Ferry Street (HABS No. PA-5546) by the Hellick Company, the shared side alley between the two buildings was covered over and incorporated into 217 Ferry Street.

The interior has been so badly damaged by water intrusion that it is possible only to view portions of it from the adjacent opening from 217 Ferry Street. The first floor was opened into a single large room that opened from the street door and ran the full depth of the building. At a later date, probably after the construction of the adjacent United States Post Office, windows were cut in the side wall. These are similar in character to those of the side of the old firehouse, suggesting that they were executed at the same time.

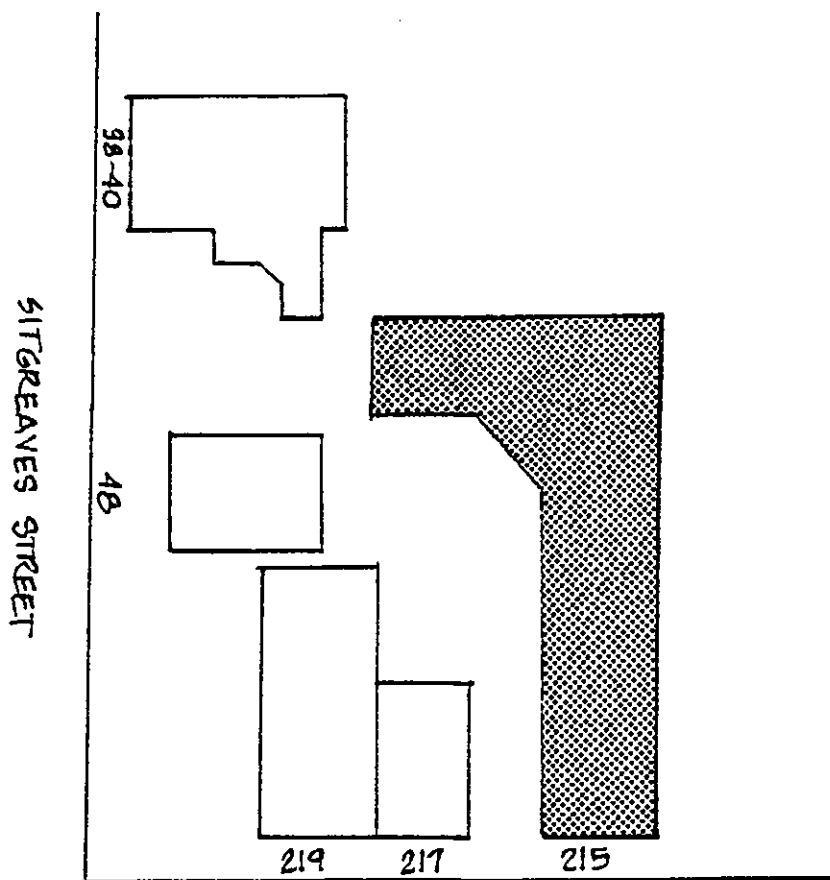
At the original rear of the building, a three-story brick and steel frame addition was constructed in the twentieth century. It joins the rear of 215 Ferry Street, bends at the rear property line and then extends west to open off a small delivery yard on Sitgreaves Street. That portion betrays its twentieth century origins by steel industrial sash, concrete lintels and oversized garage delivery doors. It is in this zone, at the corner of the two wings that vertical circulation for the entire building is located. The long east-west wing is now connected to the building at 38-40 Sitgreaves Street (HABS No. PA-5522) by a cargo ramp, marking the point at which the entire quadrant of the block was owned by the George Hellick Company.

**History:** The early maps of downtown Easton show a small townhouse with rear yard at 215 Ferry Street. By the late nineteenth century, it had been replaced by the present three story building which presumably began life with a commercial first floor and with apartments on the second and third floors, denoting the commercial growth of the downtown of Easton. Its major importance however occurred after 1913 when the building became the headquarters of the George Hellick Coffee Company. That company was founded as the Hellick Tea Company in 1906 with an office at 113 South Third Street in Easton. In 1914, the George Hellick Company moved to 215 Ferry Street where it remained for nearly half a century. Its delivery wagons carrying fresh roasted coffee were a well known part of Easton street life well into the twentieth century. Between 1914 and the early 1940s the Hellick Company purchased the rest of their quadrant of the block. It remained in the hands of the family until its sale to the United States Post Office.

The Easton Historic District was formed in 1983; the properties were acquired by the United States Postal Service for an addition to the existing postal building.

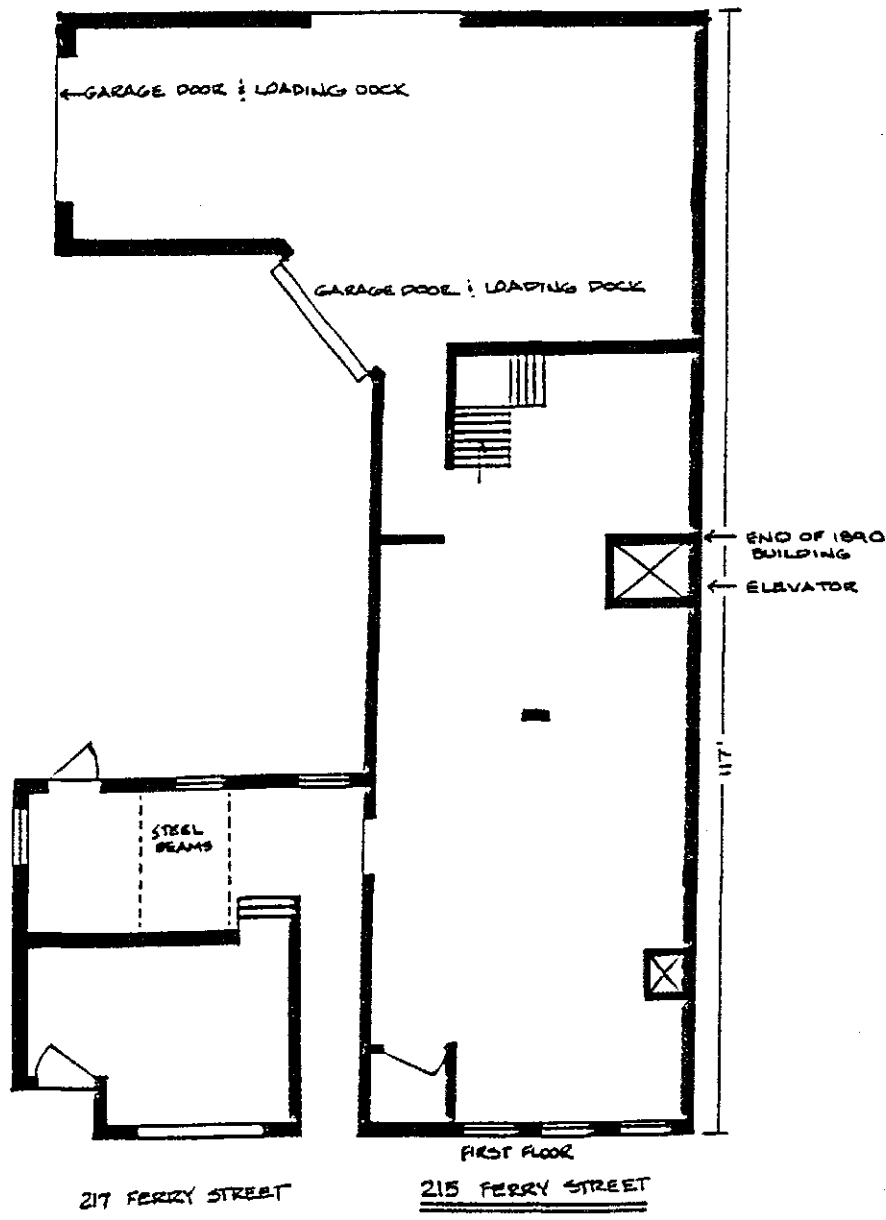
**Sources:** Northampton County Deeds, Map L9 SE2B Block 11 plot 4; Deedbook C-57, p. 459; "George F. Hellick," William J. Heller, History of Northampton County, vol. III, New York, American Historical Society, 1920, p. 321-322.; M.D. Shrope, Household Directory and Business Guide of Easton, Easton, 1909, p. 113.; West's Directory of the City of Easton, Easton, 1914, p. 245; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Comprehensive Historic Sites Survey Form, Barbara Ripley, 1978.

**Historian:** George E. Thomas, Ph.D., Emily T. C. Jernigan, Clio Group, Inc. October 11, 1990.



EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA





NOTE: UPPER LEVELS UNSAFE  
& INACCESSIBLE